ANNUAL REPORT
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1991
Alberta
Social Care
Facilities
Review
Committee

Alberta
SOCIAL CARE FACILITIES
REVIEW COMMITTEE

1991 Alberta Social Care Facilities Review Committee

Submitted to
The Honourable
John Oldring
Minister of
Family and
Social Services

January 1 to December 31, 1991

Alberta
SOCIAL CARE FACILITIES
REVIEW COMMITTEE

#404, Energy Square Building, 10109 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 3L6 403/427-3010

In Replying Please Quote:

March 30, 1992

The Honourable John Oldring
Minister of Family and Social Services
Room 104
Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Oldring:

The Social Care Facilities Review Committee has the honour to present their 1991 Annual Report to you.

During the calendar year of 1991, the committee made 1,313 visits to social care facilities in Alberta.

In this report we have endeavoured to provide you with an overview of the operations of these facilities.

Sincerely,

Walter Paszkowski

Walter Paszkowski
Chairman

92-07310/

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Chairman's Report

This report reviews the activities of the Social Care Facilities Review Committee during 1991. Members of the committee annually visit numerous social care facilities throughout the province of Alberta. The various social care facilities include daycare facilities, group homes, licensed foster homes, Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse facilities, mental health facilities, adult care centres, vocational rehabilitation centres and women's emergency shelters.

The facilities provide care, support and supervision through legislated programs of the Alberta Department of Family and Social Services and related programs coordinated through several other Alberta Government Departments including the Alberta Solicitor General, the Health Department and the Ministerial Department Responsible for Seniors.

The committee members acknowledge with thanks the courtesy and hospitality shown by the staff of the various agencies, boards and associations, and by the administrators and volunteers who have made significant contributions to both children and adults with special needs.

The committee, through the Chairman, maintains close liaison with the Minister of Family and Social Services, the Honourable John Oldring, regarding its activities. Some of the facilities involve other Alberta Government departments, whose ongoing cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

Walter Paszkowski, Chairman

The committee recognizes and thanks retiring member Ruby Hill for her past contributions to the committee.

Committee Members

Chairman:	Walter Paszkowski, MLA Smoky River		Sexsmith
Vice-Chairman:	Marilyn Sereda		Edmonton
Members:	Hazel Cail		Camrose
	Karen Clipperton		Sherwood Park
	Ute Davies		Calgary
	Christina Jones		McLennan
	Bonnie Laing, MLA (Calgary/Bow)		Calgary
	T. Edward Poppitt		Calgary
	Lee Urquhart		Red Deer
	Sherrolynne Wilcox		Beaverlodge
	Jean Wright		Vermilion
Committee Changes:	Ruby Hill	(Retired)	Lethbridge
Staff:	Evelyn Bliss Administrative Assistant		Edmonton
	Sandy Molstad Secretary		Edmonton

Members are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

The committee members wish to express thanks and appreciation to Ruby Hill who served so willingly and effectively during her term of office as a committee member.

Role of the Committee

The Social Care Facilities Review Committee Act was passed by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in 1980, and amended in 1985. Under this Act, the Social Care Facilities Review Committee was established. The committee consists of 12 members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. Those appointed are from various parts of the Province and include two Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The committee reviews and inspects all social care facilities, observing the manner in which they are operated. These facilities may receive part or all of their funding from the Government of Alberta. Group homes, foster homes, day care centres, adult care centres, hostels, emergency shelters and vocational training centres are visited under the mandate of the committee. During 1987, an amendment to the Social Care Facilities Licensing Act was passed to include licensed family day homes and nursery schools under the committee's mandate.

The Minister of Family and Social Services may request that the committee visit a facility to report on any matter that the Minister specifies. For the purpose of carrying out the regular visit or an investigation under the Social Care Facilities Review Committee Act, the committee may enter a facility unannounced at any reasonable hour.

While visiting social care facilities, members try to speak to all those involved, listening to concerns, comments, or suggestions which would serve to improve the quality of care. Depending on the facility, the committee communicates with residents and their relatives, employees, administrators, board members, councillors, members of sponsoring organizations or the public.

The committee meets at least monthly to review the results of these visits, as well as to make suggestions, and to respond to enquiries connected with the committee's experience and activities.

Observations

Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC)

Due to recent changes in legislation, the Ministry Responsible for Seniors is now also responsible for AADAC.

The programs and services provided by the Commission are significant and noteworthy. Clients are supported in a positive and caring atmosphere.

The committee is pleased to note that recent programs have been developed to provide services for youth and other special treatment programs. Additional public awareness programs should be encouraged to communicate the services provided through the Commission.

Child Welfare Facilities

The capable manner in which the Department and agencies responsible for children in care meet the changing and challenging needs of the children is acknowledged.

Individual and innovative life skills training programs help prepare the children for a more independent role in society.

The committee recognizes the dedicated efforts made by staff in the unique challenge of caring for the children.

Day Care Facilities

Day Care Centres

The committee continues to demonstrate its responsibilities for assessment of day care programs throughout the province by monitoring the centres on a regular basis.

Deficiencies noted in some day care centres have resulted in more frequent monitoring by the committee. It is the opinion of committee members that the monitoring process is improving and as a result the standards of care are improving.

An increased awareness of the responsibilities of caregivers in handling suspected cases of abuse and neglect has been noted since the Department's distribution of the handbook, "Protocol for Handling Child Abuse and Neglect in Day Care Services".

Committee members were encouraged to note the degree of participation of child care staff in the fifty hour orientation course sponsored by the Department and are encouraged by the graduates' appreciation for the course.

The committee appreciated the opportunity to review the draft copy of the Day Care Licensing Policy Manual and to submit recommendations to the Minister.

It is important to note that various groups including day care operators and interested parties have also had the opportunity to meet with the Minister and members of his department several times in the past year for the purpose of providing suggestions for the proposed Day Care Licensing Policy Manual. Ample time was provided for all participants to respond.

A parent committee will be formed to further review the draft copy of the manual.

The guidelines as set out in the manual will ensure that quality care is being provided to promote the healthy growth and development of the children.

The intent of the manual is to provide guidelines for a progressive child care service that will enhance the social, emotional, physical, creative and intellectual development of the child. Health and safety principles as well as a calm and tranquil environment are emphasized to promote a secure, trusting and caring atmosphere for each child.

It is important for parents to take an active role in assessing and monitoring their child's day care centre.

Licensed Family Day Homes

Licensed family day homes (where care for more than three children is provided), are monitored and reviewed on a regular basis by the committee, based on the guidelines set forth in the Day Care Licensing Policy Manual.

Regulations governing licensed family day homes should be consistent and compatible with regulations governing contracted (agency) family day homes.

Family day home operators are encouraged to document and to provide child care programs that ensure each child's developmental needs are met throughout the daily program. Documentation of the daily program will assist the operator in providing a variety of interesting and stimulating activities with consistency and continuity.

Nursery Schools

The objective of nursery school programs is to provide opportunities for socialization and learning through play while caring for the children.

Regular parental participation in nursery school programs provides an automatic means of monitoring these facilities.

Programs for School Age Children

The Department of Family and Social Services is responsible for licensing facilities for after school programs. However, operating standards and staff qualifications are established by the municipalities in which they are located.

Standardization of operational guidelines to make these programs more uniform throughout the province should be considered to ensure quality care. Programs and equipment should be age appropriate.

There appears to be a growing need for programs to accommodate children requiring after school care.

Licensed Foster Homes

Licensed foster homes (where care for more than three children is provided) are monitored on a regular basis by the committee.

The complexity of problems in today's society facing children and foster families may contribute to potentially stressful situations. Programs are being developed to assist foster parents to resolve potential problems.

There appears to be need for additional licensed foster homes in the province.

Committee members appreciate the courtesy extended to them by licensed foster home operators during visits to their homes.

Group Homes

The purpose of group homes is to provide a safe, healthy and homelike environment for individuals who are physically disabled, mentally handicapped and emotionally disturbed.

The ongoing objective is to prepare the individual for independent living to the degree that the individual is able to achieve.

The committee recognizes that there are some individuals who require a more supportive lifestyle as well as others who would benefit from a more independent living situation. Clients should continue to be encouraged to participate in community activities.

Mental Health Facilities

Individuals who are making the transition from institutional environments to community living receive support through a wide variety of services and are provided a secure environment through community based mental health facilities.

Occasionally more involved community integration is promoted through the formation of informal neighborhood advisory groups.

Single Men's Hostels

The committee recognizes the significant contribution in the provision of shelter for men in need of temporary accommodation.

In some facilities, counselling services are available to direct the men to the appropriate area of assistance such as job support, living skills, training, and medical referrals.

The present high unemployment situation and migration to this province from other parts of Canada has placed increased demands on these facilities and on the services they provide.

Special Care Homes for the Aged

These homes provide care and lodging for senior citizens who require a semi-dependent lifestyle. Assistance with personal care and supervision for individuals requiring these services are provided in some homes.

The committee recognizes the special effort made by some operators to provide a stimulating environment in an attempt to enrich the lives of the clients.

Vocational Training Centres

Client participation in the community has been enhanced by the development of innovative programs to meet their specific needs. The agencies and their staff have demonstrated remarkable initiative in this area and their efforts are recognized.

The enhancement of employment opportunities through business community initiatives is commendable.

Women's Emergency Shelters

The dedication and commitment demonstrated by staff and volunteers in providing a variety of necessary services to clients in emergency shelters throughout the province is recognized by the committee.

It is encouraging to note that counselling programs for children who are victims of violence have been developed and implemented. The committee encourages continued research and development of programs and services that provide effective treatment and counselling for these children.

The efforts of some agencies and organizations in the development of an outreach program to provide continued support and counselling services for "abusers" are recognized.

Due to an apparent increasing need for these types of facilities and more public awareness of the services they provide, the present facilities frequently seem to be operating at maximum capacity.

Summary of Recommendations

1. Standardization of operational guidelines for Programs for School Age Children should be more uniform throughout the province.
2. Public awareness should be encouraged to communicate the availability of special services provided through AADAC, in particular the recently developed youth programs.

Appendix I
Complaints Received

The Committee receives written and telephone complaints (in addition to any received during visits) about the care, treatment and standard of accommodation afforded to individuals residing in, or cared for by, a social care facility. Complaints may be registered by staff, administrators, parents, other relatives or any individual.

The Committee received 10 complaints during 1991. Of these, 7 were related to day care and 1 to group/adult homes. The remainder were appropriately referred.

All concerns are treated confidentially and are investigated as soon as possible.

Appendix II
Visit Summary - 1991

Type of Facility Visited	Calgary	Central	Edmonton	Northeast	Northwest	South	Totals
Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission Facilities	2	–	5	2	1	4	14
Child Welfare Facilities	20	10	44	3	4	7	88
Day Care Facilities:							
Day Care Centres	119	38	230	12	14	42	455
Family Day Homes	22	–	11	5	4	1	43
Nursery Schools	47	17	69	1	13	8	155
Programs for School Age Children	73	18	124	8	6	17	246
Foster Homes	20	16	38	8	5	9	96
Group Homes	36	22	37	10	10	18	133
Mental Health Facilities	1	–	16	–	–	–	17
Single Men's Hostels	–	–	2	–	1	–	3
Special Care Homes for the Aged	–	1	1	–	2	2	6
Vocational Training Centres	9	6	13	5	2	11	46
Women's Emergency Shelters	1	2	3	2	1	2	11
Totals:	350	130	593	56	63	121	1,313
Total Number of Facilities Visited:							1,313

Appendix III
Location of Committee Office

The Social Care Facilities Review Committee is located at:

#404, Energy Square Building
10109 - 106th Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3L6

Telephone Number:

(403) 427-3010

Contact Person(s):

Marilyn Sereda, Vice-Chairman
Evelyn Bliss, Administrative Assistant